

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 041334Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5983

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 2618

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EAID, EFIN, IR

SUBJ: SAUDI-IRANIAN COOPERATION ON ASSISTANCE TO LDC'S

REF: JIDDA 1522

1. WHEN SHAH TURNED CONVERSATION TO SUBJECT OF CRUDE OIL PRICES DURING AUDIENCE ON APRIL 4, OCCASION WAS TAKEN TO ASK HIM IF HE OR HIS GOVERNMENT HAD MADE ANY APPROACH TO THE SAUDIS ON THE IRANIAN PROPOSAL FOR ASSISTING THE LDC'S. THE SHAH REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE. HE WENT ON TO SAY, UN-CHARACTERISTICALLY I THOUGHT, THAT HE HAD NO INFLUENCE OVER KING FAISAL OR THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT. HE OPINED THAT THE USG UNDOUBTEDLY DIDBUT THAT THE GOI FELT FRUSTRATED ON THIS SCORE. IT WAS QUITE CLEAR THAT THE SHAH IN HIS CURRENT MOOD FEELS THAT NO ONE HAS ANY INFLUENCE ON KING FAISAL "INCLUDING AMBASSADOR AKINS". (AM NOT TRYING TO PERSONALIZE THIS REPORT. SIMPLY WANT TO GIVE THE FLAVOR OF WHAT WAS SAID.)

2. SHAH STILL FEELS THAT THE RISE IN THE EQUITY PRICE OF CRUDE OIL WAS JUSTIFIED. HE POINTS OUT THAT WHEN YAMANI TALKS OF REDUCING THIS PRICE TO DOL\$5 GOVERNMENT-TAKE, HE IS ESSENTIALLY HELPING ONLY THE RICH COUNTRIES. IT IS THE SHAH'S VIEW THAT IF HE WANTS TO ASSIST THE POOR COUNTRIES, NO ONE IS STOPPING HIM. IN SHORT, GOT THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT THE SHAH WILL CONTINUE TO ASSIST COUNTRIES LIKE INDIA, PAKISTAN, THE SUDAN IN WAYS HE CHOOSES, AND THAT HE IS NOT GOING TO STAND
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STILL FOR A REDUCTION IN THE EQUITY PRICE. HE IS GOING TO FIGHT A HARD BATTLE FOR HIS POINT OF VIEW NOT ONLY ON PRICES

BUT ON HOW TO HELP LDC'S. INCIDENTALLY, HE DREW ATTENTION TO THE PASSAGES IN HIS INTERVIEW WITH ABE ROSENTHAL OF THE NEW YORK TIMES WHERE HE REFERS TO THE OIL COMPANIES AND RECOMMENDS THAT GOVERNMENTS SHOULD TAKE OVER CONTROL OF TRADING IN OIL, WHEAT, URANIUM, ETC. HE HARPS ON THE PROFITS OF THE MAJOR OIL COMPANIES AND THE HIGH TAXES WHICH WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES CONTINUE TO DERIVE FROM GASOLINE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, DEVELOPMENT LOANS, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TEHRAN02618
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740076-0440
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740466/aaaacitp.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: JIDDA 1522
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 AUG 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAUDI-IRANIAN COOPERATION ON ASSISTANCE TO LDC'S
TAGS: ENRG, EAID, EFIN, IR, SA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005